SKETCHES OF CEYLON

BY

BARON EUGENE DE RANSONNET

EX LIBRIS
PHILIP
HOFER

The
Philip Hofer
Collection
in the
Houghton
Library

See under Ravsonnet-Villez, Eugene

The British Museum has an edition in German of 1868.

SKETCHES

OF THE

INHABITANTS, ANIMAL LIFE AND VEGETATION

IN THE

LOWLANDS AND HIGH MOUNTAINS

OF

CEYLON,

AS WELL AS OF

THE SUBMARINE SCENERY NEAR THE COAST,

TAKEN IN A DIVING BELL

BY

THE BARON EUGÈNE DE RANSONNET.

VIENNA.
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY GEROLD & SOLD BY ROBERT HARDWICKE LONDON 192, PICCADILLY.
1867.

TO HIS MAJESTY

LEOPOLD II., KING OF THE BELGIANS,

THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

WITH HIS MOST GRACIOUS PERMISSION,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

2

SKETCHES OF CEYLON,

ITS

INHABITANTS AND NATURAL PRODUCTS.

INTRODUCTION.

Ceylon has become of late an object of great interest to naturalists and sportsmen. Much has been written on this green island of the East and perhaps any information, that can be desired, is already to be found in the valuable works of Thwaites, Baker, Kelaart, Bennett, Forbes, Schmarda and especially in that of Sir James Emerson Tennent.

A series of pretty views of Ceylon has also been published by Captain O'Brien, but the beauties of nature in our island, so well described by Tennent, have been by no means exhausted by the pencil. I have therefore endeavoured to contribute, in my own way, more complete information on the same topic, than has hitherto appeared.

From what I have seen of tropical scenery, I feel convinced, that its characteristic beauty is far less striking in extensive views, than in the smaller and more defined groups of the luxuriant products of the vegetable kingdom.

In order to give a perfect idea of tropical vegetation in certain distinct zones and spots, rough and incorrect sketches are of little use. These must be at least correct in respect to the appearance of the principal features of vegetation in the landscape and must enable every one to recognise a tree or large plant, nearly with the same certainty in the drawing, as it would be possible in reality, on the very spot, where the artist had been sketching. On the other hand, perfect portraits of plants, like those in purely scientific books which enable the botanist to rocognise every species by analyzing the leaves etc., must not be expected here.

The shortness of my stay in Ceylon (from November 1864 to February 1865) and the heavy rains in the mountains allowed me to take only a limited number of sketches and even these had been made without any previous intention to publish them.

The views of coral-banks taken in a diving bell are as far as I know novelties. The only submarine views existing hitherto and bearing any claim to truthfulness, were my own sketches of the Red sea taken without the use of the diving bell, and published in the Journals of the Zoological and Botanical Society of Vienna, in 1863 and in my little work on the coral-banks of the Red sea (Reise von Kairo nach Tor zu den Korallenbänken des Rothen Meeres. Wien 1863). I wished to illustrate by my views from the Indian Ocean the wonderful account which Darwin gives of the formation of coral-banks & islands in his most extraordinary geological works. I have tried therefore to make these views as correct as possible, especially with regard to their characteristic features. The fish were sketched while alive, in their favourite positions, as their shape and colouring is generally altered immediately after death.

All the plates of this work have been lithographed by myself, so that I can answer for their correctness. As a first attempt, I trust that they will not be too severely criticised.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my best thanks to all my friends in Ceylon, who have so much aided me in my researches.

Unfortunately of those to whom I feel particularly indebted, General O'Brien, then acting as Governor in Ceylon, and Mr. Sonnenkalb, Consul for Austria, Prussia and Hamburg in Galle, exist no more, but I shall never forget their kindness towards me.

To Major Skinner, a gentleman possessing the most profound knowledge of Ceylon, I am very much obliged for the excellent plan of my journey to the interior of the Island and many a useful hint. I am very glad also to express here my thanks to Mr. Thwaites, the well known botanist and director of the botanical gardens at Peradenia, with whom I spent several of the brightest days of my life and who generously allowed me to obtain possession of a part of his beautiful collections. To my kind friend, the zealous missionary Father Miliani and finally to two native gentlemen, the Ratamahatmeyas of Ratnapoora and Balangodde, I have to express my acknowledgments for their agreable society and friendly advice.

VIENNA, September 1867.

Baron Eugène de Ransonnet.

PLATE I.

Every traveller, who has made the journey from Point de Galle to Colombo, so famous for the beauty of its scenery, cannot fail to recollect several Banyan trees, close to the road, of which the one situated in Colpetty near Colombo, is the largest. Enormous roots are coming down from its upper branches on both sides of the road, forming a kind of gateway overhead. The colour of the bark of this tree is a light grey, which contrasts in a picturesque way with the dark foliage around. In spite of its size the huge tree produces only diminutive figs, upon which nimble little squirrels are feeding.

In the rear of the picture a bullock-cart is seen slowly proceeding on its way. This primitive vehicle is still much in use by travellers in the less frequented parts of the island, although tolerable stage-coaches now run along the principal routs.

PL. I

E. Ransonnet del & lith. | v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

BANIANENBAUM BEI COLOMBO. BANYAN - TREE NEAR COLOMBO.

FIGUIER DES BANYANS PRÈS DE COLOMBO.

Selbstverl... : Ransonnet

... Nachdruck

PLATE II.

The first trip of the new-comer in Ceylon is generally made towards Wackwelle-hill, a few miles from Galle. The country displayed before the eye at the summit is highly picturesque and as every-where in the cultivated part of the island, has the appearance of a beautiful park. Wackwelle-river is seen winding through verdant paddi-fields intercepted by beautiful masses of shady trees of every hue and shape, above which lofty coco-nut palms are towering.

These lovely groves are tenanted by great numbers of the black monkey of the plain (Semnopithecus leucoprymnus,) called Kaloo Wanderoo by the natives. These creatures are seldom disturbed here, and are wont to watch the rambling visitors to the place, from one of their favourite trees.

In the foreground of the picture are standing two specimens of the singular sugar palm (Caryota urens), the Kitool of the natives. This useful tree yields an enormous amount of delicious saccharine sap, which is transformed by boiling into a kind of brown sugar (jaggery).

The ground below the two palms is thickly covered with a pretty shrub, the Lantana mixta, which was introduced some forty years ago by Sir Hudson Lowe from the Mauritius and has propagated so rapidly in the island, as to become finally even a nuisance to the cultivators.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

ANSICHT VOM WACKWELLE-HÜGEL. | VIEW TAKEN FROM WACKWELLE-HILL | VUE PRISE DE LA COLLINE DE WACKWELLE.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE III.

Nothing can be more charming than a morning walk in the immediate neighbourhood of Galle. The roads, which are kept in excellent repair, are generally of a reddish hue, and lead across paddi-fields of the brightest green, and under dark masses of trees mixed with coco nut and areca palms, plantains and bamboo, which gracefully bend their shady branches over the path.

Numerous small birds and butterflies add brightness to the foliage and large lizards (Monitor), from three to four feet in length, enjoy their dolce far niente in the morning-sun.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

LANDSTRASSE BEI POINT DE GALLE. ▿ ROAD NEAR POINT DE GALLE.

CHAUSSÉE PRÈS DE POINT DE GALLE.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE IV.

Europeans generally do not sufficiently appreciate the beauty of their darker brothers in the East, though it cannot be denied, that many among them have very regular and interesting features and, if not, at all events more perfect figures than we can boast of. The Singhalese especially must be called a fine people and their features distinctly show their descent from the Caucasian race.

Plate IV. exhibits the portrait of Siniapu, a boy about 14 years old, from Matura on the southern coast, where the Singhalese race is said to be purest.

It is very difficult for strangers to distinguish boys from girls, during their first stay at Ceylon, so striking is the similarity of their features and costumes. The expression of the eyes soft and timid like that of a gazelle, the delicate face and long silky hair, give them a feminine rather than a masculine appearance.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.   Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

SINIAPU SINGALESISCHER KNABE. — SINIAPOO, A SINGHALESE BOY.

SINIAPOU, JEUNE CINGALAIS.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE V.

This view, taken on the shore opposite Galle, shows a very characteristic feature of the coast vegetation. The phantastic stems of the screw-pines (Pandanus) are crawling and winding like so many snakes from cliff to cliff, supported by their long and numerous leg-like roots. The principal trunk divides into many branches, each of which is surmounted by a tuft of long leaves.

The numerous roots are of a reddish tinge and form a picturesque foreground to the dark blue surface of the sea, which sometimes is visible through their entangled network.

PL. V.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

PANDANUS GRUPPE. GROUP OF PANDANUS. GROUPE DE PANDANUS.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE VI.

In no part of the world does the coco-nut palm attain such perfection and beauty as in Ceylon and nothing is more enchanting to the eye of the European than a grove of this useful tree.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith. Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

COCOSPALMEN. ♦ COCONUT-PALMS. ♦ GROUPE DE COCOTIERS.

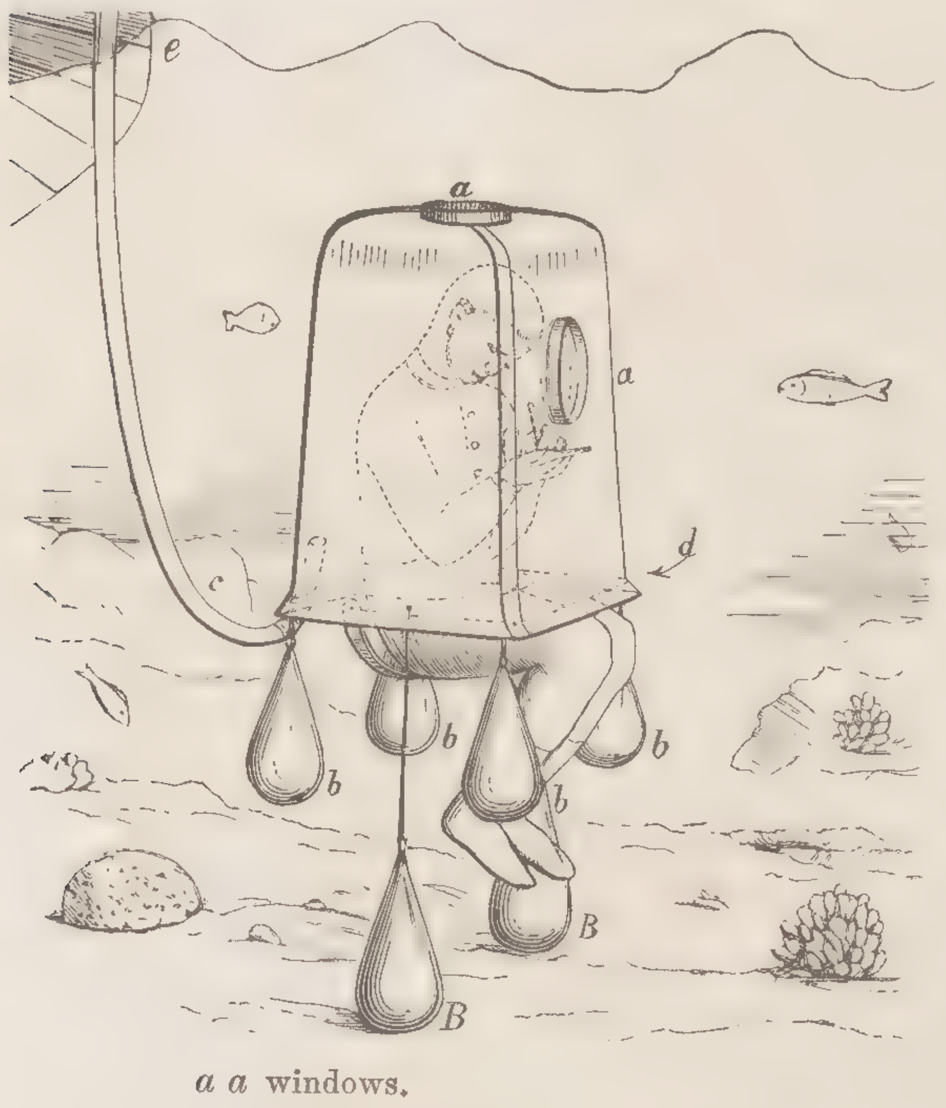
Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet. Mit Vorbehalt g. gen Nachdruck

PLATE VII.

Although it was my original intention to confine myself merely to the description of the plates, still I thought, that the reader might find it desirable to have some information with respect to the submarine views and to the contrivance adopted for the purpose of taking them.

In order to be enabled to observe the life existing in the sea as well as in an aquarium and to make sketches of submarine landscapes, I constructed a small diving bell of plate iron, 3 feet high by 2½ in width. Besides a smaller window of plate-glass at the top for the admission of light, a second one of 8 inches in diameter was made in front, which allowed the diver to gaze freely into the depth of the water. For my accomodation when sketching, a movable iron bar was fastened below.

The weight of seven Cwts were requisite to submerge the bell almost totally under the level of the water. Then the diver entered the bell and by means of lines, which were fastened to a couple of weights lying on the bottom of the sea, he was enabled to lower his machine as far down as he thought proper. The bottom being now reached, the diver found himself in the position to move forward in any direction by simply raising the weights *BB*, while the boat with the air-pump followed in his wake.



a a windows.
b b b b B B weights.
c air-tube.
d level of the water inside the bell.
e boat.

In many instances the bell was merely submerged in one or two fathoms of water and kept floating in the same position by long ropes fastened to the adjoining rocks.

It may seem odd to use a diving bell in such shallow water, but those who have been under the surface of the waves and observed the great difference of distinctness, picturesque effect and even of the form of any thing seen under water in any other way, will form a different opinion.

The difficulties thrown in the way of the diver and artist by currents and waves even in shallow water, are of themselves considerable and only such a simple apparatus, as I made use of, could be employed in a country, where one has wholly to depend upon the Coolies for assistance.

The beauty of the submarine scenery is perhaps nowhere greater than in moderate depth and far more sketches, than I have been able to take here, would not be sufficient to give more than an imperfect idea of its great variety.

The general effect of this species of scenery in respect to colour, is of course very different from that resulting from the appearance of our own landscapes, the prevaling hue under water being a more or less bluish or yellowish green, by which the colours of the objects are very much altered, particulary when situated at some distance.

Red appears always dull and is impossible to be distinguished at a short distance. Yellow and even blue are changed, except in the foreground, into a somewhat of a greenish hue, while green itself is of an astonishing brilliancy and even becomes comparatively brighter at a remote distance. White also remains visible, when far removed from the eye, but then thoroughly assumes the green hue of the water.

Bright colours assume to a certain extent the greenish hue of the sea, whereas darke ones present an opposite effect. The shades and dark coloured objects (green ones excepted) gradually present a more or less reddish or brownish tinge, which is always complementary to that of the water.

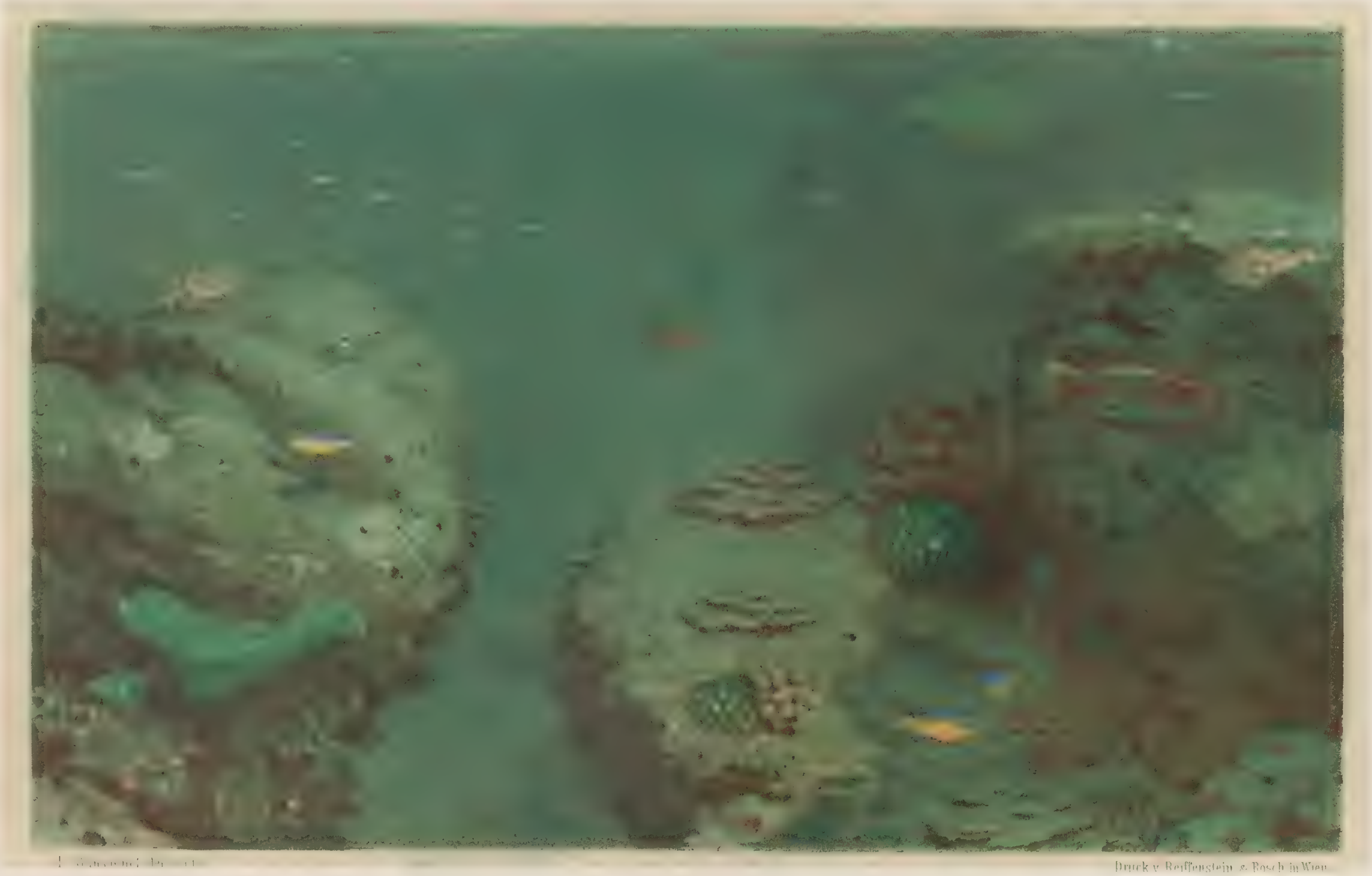
The first submarine view presents a few rocks off the coast opposite Galle, where many green corals are growing.

Nothing can equal the brilliancy of these emeralds of the sea, whose convex surfaces sometimes are impressed with a variety of brown patterns (Maeandrina and Astraea). The Turbinaria pettata M. Edw. is distinguished by its graceful, cup-like shape and uniform green colour, which, wonderful to say, passes into a dull grey when roughly handled.

On the highest parts of the rocks a delicate Pocillopora of an exquisite rose colour and with minute greenish polypes, forms a peculiar contrast to the vivid green of some flat Heteropores while another species of the same tribe (Pocillopora verrucosa) is tenanted by large polypes of a brownish hue. A kind of Montipora of a similar colour expands its brittle forms not unlike certain fungi, and yellow flexible Alcyonia grow on the vertical sides of the rocks, which are covered by numerous Zoanthus with green disks.

Varied fish enliven these curious places: dark clouds of sardines (Sardinella Neohowii) appear from time to time suddenly between the cliffs, and the bright yellow and blue Glyphisodon Brownriggii is continually searching in the numerous holes of the rocks. The Acanthurus Triostegus and the beautiful red and green parrotfish (Julis quadricolor) also haunt the rocky coast.

Pl. VII



Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

UNTERSEEISCHE FELSEN MIT GRÜNEN KORALLEN. SUBMARINE ROCKS WITH GREEN CORALS.

ROCHERS SOUSMARINS AVEC DES CORAUX VERTS.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE VIII.

The second submarine sketch was taken in one of the shallow channels of the coral-reef near the fort of Galle.

Here there is a nearly horizontal bottom of fine sand, having a vivid green appearance. The sun is shining directly into the cristalline water, and the bright entangled lines, produced by the fraction of the sun-rays falling on the little waves, glide over the smooth sand and the various coral-groups, one of which forms the foreground of the picture.

It may seem strange to speak of the graceful form of a coral, which is even more brittle than glass, but I believe the shape of the brown coral itself (Montipora foliosa) in the centre of the sketch, is full warrant for this expression.

Below the broad leaves of this lovely product of the sea, are to be seen the round mass of a Favia and a large block of the white tipped Millepora.

The slime, which covers this last mentioned coral has the peculiarity of producing a violent burning sensation on the skin.*)

The coral most universally found in this part of the reef, is a kind of Heteropora, which sometimes covers extensive spaces like brushwood. It grows up to the hight of one to three feet and its brown branches are particularly attractive by their bright purple ends, which glitter like gems under the waves.

The plate gives also the portraits of fish, which frequent these places. The most curious of them is the black and yellow Zanclus cornutus, with its singularly projecting mouth and long dorsal fin, which terminates in a white thread-like pendant, and is vertically erected by the animal when excited. High up in the waters a small fish of a very different shape (Gomphosus fuscus) is swimming swiftly over the corals, while an other of a dark brown colour is just descending in search of food, and the Acanthurus lineatus, a fish of singular beauty, is lingering close to the bottom, allowing us to admire the elegant blue and yellow stripes on its back.

---

*) A similar kind, which I have found in the Red Sea (Millep. complanata) has the same quality and is therefore called by the Arabs, „Shab en nar,“ that is „fire coral“.

PL. VIII

E. Ransonnet del. & lith. [illegible]

KORALLENGRUPPE. GROUP OF CORALS. GROUPE DE CORAUX.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet [illegible]

PLATE IX.

The coffee berry, when brought down from the hills, must go through a series of preparations before it is fit to be shipped for Europe. It is skinned by machinery, dried on large platforms near the storehouses, and finally picked by hand. This work is performed in Colombo by hundreds of female native.

Platė IX. represents three Singhalese girls from 13 to 16 years of age, employed in coffee-picking in one of the vast storehouses of Messrs. Worms in Colombo.

Æ. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

SINGALESISCHE FRAUEN KAFFEEBOHNEN AUSKLAUBEND. ✣ SINGHALESE WOMEN PICKING COFFEE

FEMMES CINGALAISES OCCUPÉES À ÉPLUCHER DU CAFÉ.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE X.

The coast-currents occasioned by the monsoon, deposit the sand and mud, conveyed to the sea by the rivers, along the flat coasts of Ceylon. Between the land and the extensive sandbanks, which are being gradually formed, open channels or lakes are left, the salt water of which is gradually, in the course of time, replaced by fresh water.

Plate X. exhibits a tank near Colombo, which evidently owes its existance to a similar formation. Nothing can surpass the graceful groups of palms, reflected on the mirror-like surface of the water, which is no longer disturbed by the restless waves of the sea. The large leaves of the Nelumbium float on these quiet waters, and sometimes stretch over them to such an extent, as not to leave the least part of the water uncovered.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

WEIHER BEI COLOMBO. — TANK NEAR COLOMBO. — ÉTANG PRÈS DE COLOMBO

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE XI.

Ascending the steep and fatiguing mountain of Adams Peak from Pelmadula or Ratnapoora the traveller feels delighted when he first enters the shady forests of the higher regions. Numerous climbing plants, called jungle-ropes by the natives, hang in graceful festoons between the taller trees, while bamboos, large ferns and many other plants cover the ground with their lovely foliage.

But while the vegetable riches of nature are developed to such a degree in those forests, nothing can be more striking than the nearly complete absence of animal life and the melancholy calmness resulting therefrom. The numerous land-leeches abounding there would alone seem to interfere with the quiet *reverie* of the rambler and remind him that he is not allowed to intrude upon their territory without molestation and pains.

In order to enable the draughtsman to remain with impunity for a couple of hours in those forests, *leech-gaiters* are not a sufficient preservative. Further precautions are indispensable. The underwood must be cut down some yards around and the boots of the artist as well as the legs of his stool, have to be rubbed round with lime-juice. These magic circles soon stop the dangerous assaults of the tiny blood-thirsty creatures and induce them to begin a blocade *en masse*, which proofs equally unsuccessful.

PL. XI.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

WALD IN DER NÄHE DES ADAMSPICKS. — FOREST-SCENERY NEAR ADAM'S PEAK.

FORÊT PRÈS DU PIC D'ADAM.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE XII.

The Singhalese, as I have intimated before, must be called a fine race, but generally speaking the females are not so goodlooking as the men. To the eye of the stranger the majority of the former seem aged. In reality the period, when the females in Ceylon deserve to be ranked in the category of the fair sex, only lasts a very short time. Still there is an exception to this rule, in as much as in the country near Ratnapoora and Pelmadula, inhabited by a multitude of lowcasts and outcasts, many women bear on their countenance the marks of real beauty.

It is very strange that the highcasts are generally darker than many lowcasts, in spite of the very simple costume of the latter, which leaves the upper part of the body exposed to the scorching influence of the sun.

Some of the low-caste girls between 11 and 14 years are peculiarly pretty and have a light brown complexion. Their shoulders, busts and arms being of an exquisitely delicate form, they frequently resemble those antique bronze statues of Psyche, familiar to all lovers of art.

Agostina was a christian girl 13 years of age, and performed the duties of an ajah in a native house near Pelmadula.

E. Ransonnet del & lith

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

AGOSTINA, SINGALESISCHES MADCHEN VON NIEDERER KASTE. — AGOSTINA, A SINGHALESE LOW-CASTE GIRL.

AGOSTINA, JEUNE FILLE CINGALAISE DE CASTE BASSE

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet

[illegible]

PLATE XIII.

The bungalow of Mr. Crüwell, a coffeeplanter in Laymastotte near Happootella-pass, which has been built in a very picturesque situation at the foot of bold crags. One of these is still overgrown by the curious network of roots springing from a fig-tree, while the remaining pieces of large trees around, prove that a majestic wood has been felled here only a few years ago, where now the coffeeplants hold possession of every patch of available soil, intervening between the large blocks of a fallen cliff, and even finding a place on the very summit of the rocks, yielding their annual tribute to their owner.

PL. XIII

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

HAUS EINES KAFFEEPFLANZERS. BUNGALOW OF A COFFEE PLANTER. HABITATION D'UN PLANTEUR DE CAFÉ.

PLATE XIV.

A group of Singhalese coolies from Matura, employed on the coffee estate of Laymastotte.

PL. XIV.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith. Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

SINGALESISCHE KULIS. SINGHALESE COOLIES. COULIS SINGALAIS.

Selbstverlag d. E. Ransonnet Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE XV.

Close to the coffee plantation of Laymastotte a forest of tall trees covers the steep ledge of the mountains. A brook rushes down concealed by dense masses of foliage, only now and then making its appearance, when the water bounds from the rocks into a precipice, exposing its snowy foam to the light, before it disappears amid the gloom underneath. The openings in the dense wood near these cascades are expansive enough to admit a flood of sunshine into the interior, and thus present to the gaze of the traveller a new attraction by reason of its picturesque beauty and the various forms of animal life, with which it is teeming. Small, birds fly from tree to tree, basking in the sunshine and butterflies*) of uncommon size, display in the sunlight their varicoloured wings as they hover above the foliage and suck the moisture from the rocks contiguous to the water.

Plate XV. exhibits one of the many cascades above mentioned, which is situated at an elevation of about 3000 feet above the level of the sea.

A fig-tree covered with creepers slightly bends its tall hollow trunk over the water.

*) Pap. Helenus, P. Polymnestor, Hestia Jasonia etc.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith. Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

WASSERFALL IM WALDE. CASCADE IN THE FOREST.

CASCADE DANS UN BOIS.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet. Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE XVI.

A small Buddhist temple in Badoola the capital of Oovah, with a few cotton-trees (Bombax) in the foreground.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

BUDDHISTISCHER TEMPEL IN BADULA | BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN BADOOLA

TEMPLE BOUDDHIQUE À BADOULA.

Selbstverlag E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE XVII.

The gloomier and wilder the brown forests are in the highlands of Ceylon, the more the traveller is agreeably surprised by the appearance of tree-ferns. In the vicinity of a brook and often under the shade of surrounding trees, amidst climbing bamboos and thorny shrubs, their graceful, palm-like shafts shoot forth, displaying their delicately plumed heads of the brightest transparent green.

The group of young tree-ferns (Alsophila crinita) represented in plate XVII was sketched on a spot near the highest point of the road, leading from Neuera-Ellia to Rangbodde, situated about 7000′ above the level of the sea.

PL. XVII

PL. XVII.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

GRUPPE VON FARNBÄUMEN. — GROUP OF TREEFERNS. — GROUPE DE FOUGÈRES - ARBRES

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE XVIII.

The road from Neuera-Ellia to Kandy is renowned for the great number of cascades, which descend the sides of the high mountains. Close to the village of Rangbodde is one of the finest falls, crossed by a bridge connecting the main road. The country is here not unlike Switzerland, but many tropical forms of vegetation again remind the traveller, that he is in a warmer climate. Groups of plantains grow near the road, and the long white bell-like flowers of the Datura arborea are pendent from the rocks over the gushing water.

This spot was some years ago shrouded in magnificent woods, but they have been all mercilessly cut down, to make way for the coffee plant which thrives now on the naked banks of the cascade.

PL. XVIII

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien.

WASSERFALL BEI RANGBODDE. | CASCADE NEAR RANGBODDE.

CASCADE PRÈS DE RANGBODDE.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE XIX.

A very industrious part of the population in Ceylon consists of Tamils or Malabars, who have gradually immigrated from the continent to the north of the island.

Plate XIX exhibits the portraits of two malabar girls in their pretty costume, formed of one single shawl, and bearing upon their persons bracelets, chains, nose- and ear-rings.

PL. XIX.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien

MALABARISCHE MÄDCHEN. ∤ MALABAR GIRLS. ∤ JEUNES FILLES MALABARES.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE XX.*)

The botanical gardens of Peradenia near Kandy are among the most picturesque sights near that town. A group, containing among others nearly all the species of palms growing in the Island, stands within a few yards of the gate and may be regarded as the chief attraction of these beautiful gardens.

The finest palm of this group is the majestic Talipat (Corypha umbraculifera, Linn.), from the enormous leaves of which the writing material is prepared for the Singhalese manuscripts (the so-called Ola books). The rough pillar-like stem is nearly hidden by climbing plants and parasitic ferns. These and the huge dead leaves of the Talipat, which are allowed to remain hanging in their places, highly add to the picturesque effect of the whole. Immediately behind this giant palm a few slender Rotangs shoot forth their delicate leaves, while the Coco-nut, Kitool, Areca, and a few other palms, form a thick mass of foliage close by.

It is to be regretted that the principal ornament of this group, the Talipat, after having attained maturity, which it will in a few years, should decay within a very brief period, leaving no trace of its former grandeur.

---

*) This sketch, by mistake not having been drawn reversed on the stone, the plate shows the group of palms on the wrong side of the gate.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith. Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

EINGANG DES BOTANISCHEN GARTENS IN PERADENIA. ∻ GATE OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN IN PERADENIA.

ENTRÉE DU JARDIN DES PLANTES À PERADENIA.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet. Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE XXI.

Among the many other various sights in the botanical gardens of Peradenia the singular fan-like traveller's trees (Ravenalia Madagascarensis) are perhaps the most conspicuous. Stiff and formal when standing isolated, like the enormous specimens near the entrance of the garden, when they are allowed to grow in a cluster as they are generally found, they form a very pleasing group.

Pl. XXI

E. Ransonnet del & lith. Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien

DER BAUM DER REISENDEN. — THE TRAVELLER'S TREE. — L'ARBRE DES VOYAGEURS.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet

Mit Vorbehalt [illegible] Nachdruck.

PLATE XXII.

In the monotonous jungles, stretching between Hambangtotte and Batticaloa, the exciting influence of sport affords ample compensation for the scarcity of fine scenery prevailing in most of the other districts. The low boundless forests, intercepted with numerous tanks and grassland are in some places stocked with all kind of game.

I have tried in plate XXII. to give an idea of the exciting moment, when the native trackers have led the sportsman within a few yards of the monarchs of the wilderness and the work of the rifle begins.

PL. XXII.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

ELEPHANTENJAGD BEI KIRINDE. | ELEPHANT SHOOTING NEAR KIRINDE. | CHASSE À L'ÉLEPHANT PRÈS DE KIRINDE.

PLATE XXIII.

The sagacity and courage displayed by some of the native trackers, who are employed by European sportsmen, often merits admiration.

Mastàn, the Malay tracker of Hambangtotte, who accompanied me in my sporting excursions, was especially distinguished for these two qualities.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

MASTÁN, MALAYISCHER JÄGER + MASTÁN A MALAY TRACKER.

MASTÁN, CHASSEUR MALAIS.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE XXIV.

The marshes near Hattagalle, in the neighbourhood of Hambangtotte, are often as attractive to the naturalist as to the sportsman.

The stagnant water is particularly covered with a kind of Sagittaria together with Nelumbium and the little islets of the curious Pistia Texensis, which are drifting to an fro according to the direction of the breeze. Herons, of the purest white, are standing in the water, the pretty water pheasants*) rest on the large leaves of the Nelumbium; the splendid purple Porphyrio poliocephalus Lath. erects its red-marked head from beneath the wet grass, and at times the Marabu appears with his long bill, pensively surveying the surrounding scene. Scores of the timid flamingoes and large clouds of ducks are seen rising over the extensive plain and flying towards some solitary tank.

*) Hydrophasianus sinensis.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rosch in Wien.

SUMPF BEI HATTAGALLE. ✦ MARSH-SCENERY NEAR HATTAGALLE ✦ MARÉCAGE PRÈS DE HATTAGALLE.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck

PLATE XXV.

This plate shows the scenery under water in one of the ponds on a coral-reef near Galle. The cristalline water is there as quiet during low tide as that in an aquarium, while the high rolling surf is still breaking with thunderlike noise against the rugged sides of the reef. These ponds are especially remarkable as containing a great variety of zoophytes among which are to be seen the curious flexible Alcyonia. These to the left of the picture are of a pale colour with numerous brown polypes and have on a flat base, many short branches, while others are of a yellowish brown or whitish hue, and assume quite undescribable forms.

The large masses to the left, which are partially overgrown by the Alcyoniae, belong to the rock-like corals (Maeandrina etc.). Another stony coral but of disk-like form (Montipora) grows also on their top and a grove of Heteropores extends in the distance. Even the stones which lie on the fine sand at the bottom are sure to interest the naturalist, as they exhibit the corals in their early stage of youth, some of which however are not destinate to get developed, as it would appear from their white colour which indicates death.

A manifold variety of fish comes forth from their shelters between the corals and enjoy the calmness of the water. Of these the endless species and varieties of the genus Chaetodon are sure to excite the admiration of the spectator.

These curious fish, of a nearly square or oval form*) live on tiny prey and are therefore continually occupied in picking up something with their beak-like mouths in order to appease their hunger.

Many other beautiful fish, such as the well known Acanthurus lineatus, together with others of dark brown colour and less gorgeous appearance, move about in the pond until the first wave of the rising tide overflows the reef and causes the whole merry crowd to vanish again in an instant.

*) The plate gives the figures of two species, one with a black eye-like spot on its yellow dorsal fin Chaet. nesogallicus, the other with the black fin Ch. decussatus.

PL. XXV.

E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

GRUPPE VON ALCYONIEN. — GROUP OF ALCYONIDAE. — GROUPE D'ALCYONAIRES.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

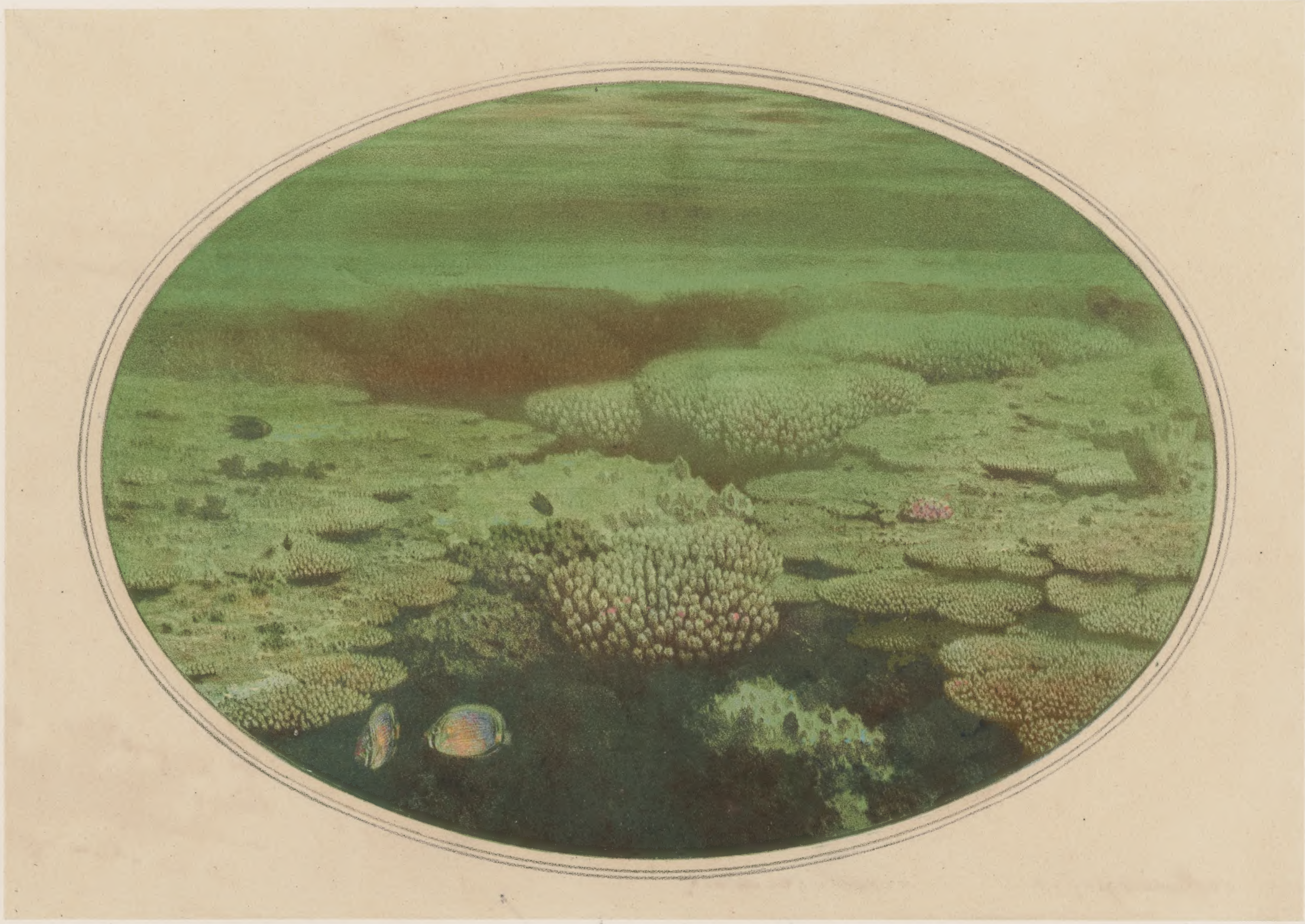
Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

PLATE XXVI.

This plate exhibits an extensive view of a coral-bank near Galle, chiefly formed of several different kinds of Heteropores. The light horizontal tract in the distance, which indicates the highest part of the reef, remains a long time exposed to the sun at low tide and consists chiefly of dead coral.

Among the fish there is again a species of Chaetodon (Vittatus), which is perhaps the finest of the kind, whith its gorgeous sides exhibiting nearly all the colours of the rainbow.

PL. XXVI.



E. Ransonnet del. & lith.

Druck v. Reiffenstein & Rösch in Wien

KORALLENRIFF BEI POINT DE GALLE. ‡ CORAL REEF NEAR POINT DE GALLE. ‡ BANC DE CORAIL PRÈS DE POINT DE GALLE.

Selbstverlag v. E. Ransonnet.

Mit Vorbehalt gegen Nachdruck.

Typ 822.67.7308F
BEQUEATHED TO
HARVARD COLLEGE 1984
*PH-1219A